Calendar of Upcoming Events

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Photo Day</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Photo Day</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Harmony Day- Mufti</td>
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<td>Thursday, 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>State Swimming</td>
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<td>Friday, 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Trials for Winter PSSA</td>
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<td>Monday, 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Cross Country Yrs3-6</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 31&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Training Band Concert 2.30-3pm in the hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; April</td>
<td>Easter Raffle drawn 9am(weather permitting)</td>
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<td>Thursday, 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; April</td>
<td>Last day Term 1</td>
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<td>Wednesday 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; April</td>
<td>Term 2 begins</td>
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Principal’s Message

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Last week, you will have received a note regarding our end of term Parent-Teacher Interviews. A copy has been placed on our website, explaining how to book interviews online, if an additional note is required. Online bookings close tonight so please book immediately if you have not already done so. The interviews provide an opportunity for teachers and parents to share information that will assist students to improve performance; develop strong work habits and enjoy positive relationships at school.

We hold our interviews at the end of Term 1 so that we can set, with you, a good course for the rest of the year.

Having interviews now ensures that there are shared expectations and goals on which the rest of the year can be built. Teachers have had time to get to know your child, and to start to see areas of strength and areas that need to be worked on. Parents have had time to see their child adjust to a new year, new class, new teacher/s and maybe new friends.

Outcomes for students are best when parents and teachers work together, appreciative and supportive of the different experiences and knowledge they each have of the child. Sharing our perspectives fills out the total picture of the child and allows us more insight into how to support the child to do his or her best at school—academically, socially and in all other ways. Because the interviews are, by necessity, restricted in time, it is wise to consider two or three main points that you may like to discuss with your child’s teacher.

As a suggestion, you may like to discuss one aspect of their academic performance (e.g. reading comprehension, problem solving, writing of text types); one area of their work habits,
Naturally, the teacher will also have some key points which they would like to talk with you about, so managing the time is very important.

Please make sure that you know where and when your interview will be. Because the interviews are short, with so many people to be seen, it is very important that we keep to the agreed times. If the available time is insufficient, there is always opportunity to meet with your child’s teacher at another agreed time. This is the case right throughout the year. If you are unable to attend your interview on the allotted day, or if you are parents requiring separate interview appointments, please send a note to your child’s teacher so that a mutually convenient time can be arranged.

For families new to our school, parents receive comprehensive written reports at the end of Terms 2 and 4. These report on all Learning Areas and work habits and attitudes, and provide specific information about your child’s performance in achieving the desired learning outcomes. These reports are based on comprehensive assessments, teacher observations and class work.

Our Term 1 interviews are more general in nature and provide feedback to you based on observations, interactions and class performance, rather than extensive assessment and testing.

Positive partnerships make such a difference to the experience of students in schools. We look forward to extending our partnership with you at the coming interviews.

Making Friends

Parents and teachers often struggle with helping children learn how to be good friends or to understand the complexities of social interactions. Below are a number of strategies that can help children develop friendships.

1. **Get Involved** – Community sports teams, art programs and special events provide opportunities for children to engage in structured activities with peers. For children who benefit from very direct instruction, social skills groups can be very helpful. These groups are a way for children to develop their social skills in a fun yet structured environment. Our school counsellor has information about social skills groups in our area.

2. **Use your Child’s Interests** – If the goal of enrolling a child in a program is to provide opportunities for making friends, look for activities the child enjoys. If a child is particularly shy, look for activities that initially have less direct contact. Gymnastics, ten-pin bowling and swimming are examples of individual sports while soccer and netball involve more contact with peers. If children start in activities they enjoy, they are more likely to join other programs as their confidence grows.

3. **Role Play Difficult Skills** – Practicing social skills is a way to work on specific aspects of social interactions. If you notice your child stands too close to peers or repeatedly asks the same questions, help them learn about personal space or conversational skills through role play. By practicing these skills at home, children can learn to improve their social skills and apply them outside the home. If your child has difficulty accepting the rules or decisions of others in games, talk to them about how to stay calm and in control of their emotions. Help them practice problem solving so that they can deal with situations appropriately, confidently and independently.
4. **Provide Examples** – While reading books or watching television, explain social situations to children. Point out how helping others, using kind words and listening when friends talk are ways to be a good friend. When characters are being hurtful or uncooperative, point these actions out and ask the child what the character could do differently to be a better friend.

5. **Model Being Good to Others** – Part of being well liked and being a good friend is being kind. Demonstrate kindness by saying nice things about and to others. Point out when a co-worker does something thoughtful and how this makes you feel about them. If your child is sympathetic or says something complimentary, tell them how impressed you were with their actions.

6. **Do Not Force Friendships** – Just like adults, children get along better with some peers than others. Teaching children to be kind and to include others in activities is important, but they do not have to be best friends with everyone. However, they do need always to be respectful and considerate.

### Safety Before School

It is very important that students do not arrive at school before supervision commences at 8:40 a.m. The Department of Education and Communities has great concern for the safety of students and wishes to frequently remind parents that no children are to arrive at school before supervision commences.

Recently, there have been instances of children being brought to school at 7:30 a.m., before the gates are unlocked, and left outside by parents. This is placing the children at great risk of harm and is not acceptable. Many children arrive from 8:00 a.m. onwards. Again, this is too early and unsafe. The only children who are permitted to arrive early are those participating in an organised school program at which supervision is provided, such as band or dance rehearsals or sport training.

Parents have responsibility for their children before 8:40 a.m. Before school care is available on our grounds through the Out Of School Hours (OOSH) Service operated by Kingsgrove Community Aid Centre. A Childcare Benefit is available through Centrelink for eligible families. To find out more about this service, which also provides after school hours and vacation care, please phone 9588 3960 or 0418 481 358, or call their head office on 9150 7823; or email the service on hoosh@kcac.org.au.

*Mrs Anne Hewson - Principal*

### In The Classroom

#### Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

Parent Interviews will be held over the last two weeks of school. We really encourage you to take this opportunity to talk with your child’s teacher about how your child has settled into school and how they are doing socially and academically. Please book an interview online or talk to your child’s teacher to make an appointment.

We would like to congratulate those students who have completed homework on a regular basis this term. Homework is a time to revise what your child has been learning in class. Here are some helpful hints to support your child’s learning at home.

- Ask your child to think of lots of things that start with a particular sound. If your child is struggling, see if they can identify an animal or food item that starts with the sound.
Kindergarten – cont.

- When your child is reading the sound words, ask them to pat their head when they say the first sound, pat their shoulders when they say the second sound and put their hands on their hips when they say the last sound. This helps the students to sound out the word before reading the whole word.
- Write the sight words twice onto paper and cut them up so that students can play a game of memory, where they have to remember where the sight words are. Ask your child to read the words as they turn them over.

Please talk to your child about using the toilets sensibly at school. We are continuing to have issues with the boys’ urinal. Boys are putting toilet paper into the urinal and it is getting blocked. Some girls are also using toilet paper to line the seat of the toilet before sitting down.

Mrs Jessica Maakaroon – Assistant Principal

Stage 1
Year 1

Year 1 Classes have been learning all about the Water Cycle and learning tricky words like Condensation, Precipitation and Evaporation. They have also been busy writing wonderful descriptions about the four seasons and thinking about which season is their favourite.

Reminder: Please send in your ‘Permission to publish’ note, if you haven’t already done so. Thank you.

We look forward to meeting you at Parent/Teacher interviews over the next two weeks.

Mrs Irena Bass – Year 1 Class Teacher
**Year 2**

During the last couple of weeks, 2R has enjoyed participating in various Science experiments to complement the ‘Light & Sound’ unit. Students have been enthusiastically sharing their observations and ideas about different sources of light encountered in their daily lives and the senses that detect them. All the students had lots of fun making and observing silhouettes and shadows both in the classroom, and in the playground.

Parents are reminded that the ‘Permission to Publish’ note was sent home during Week 7 and should be returned to the class teacher as soon as possible.

The ‘Parent and Teacher’ interviews will be conducted during Weeks 9 and 10. A note was sent home during Week 8, which will provide information about the times that your child’s class teacher is available, and how to book your interview time online. Later appointments will be available on Tuesday of Week 10.

*Ms Rhonda Rourke - Year 2 class teacher*

**Stage 2**

**Years 3 & 4**

Stage 2 students have been very busy over the last fortnight.

Year 3 students have been participating in structured walking tours around Hurstville as part of their Cooperating Communities studies in HSIE. They have been discussing the roles of organisations and businesses within our local community to understand how they help us in our daily lives and understand the goods and services they deliver.

Year 3 have also been enthusiastically engaging in the language program run by Miss Loren (Speech Pathologist) and supported by Year 3 Teachers and Support Staff. This program has been very beneficial for students to improve their speaking and listening skills and the lessons have given teachers many fantastic ideas to continue to incorporate into their daily activities.

Year 4 students have been working hard to complete OC assessment tasks ahead of the testing later in the year and have been busily studying the Science unit of work Night and day. Classes 4E and 4G have a speaking and listening task to be completed at home as part of their HSIE studies for the unit of work People and their Beliefs.

A family member is to be interviewed by the Year 4 student and the interview to be filmed and brought to school for viewing by their class. If filming of the interview cannot be completed, responses are to be recorded and submitted to their class teacher by the due date in order to be discussed in class. Parent assistance is required to complete this task, information has been provided on a note and sample questions have been practised at school and given to students.

A note for the Year 4 and Support Unit swimming program will be going home shortly. This program will run in Term 2 at Col Jones Swim School in Hurstville. Lessons will run in an indoor pool and students will walk to and from the venue. This activity will replace normal Friday sport arrangements. Please read the note carefully and see your child’s teacher if you have any questions.

*Stage 2 Teachers*
Support Unit News

The Support unit was very lucky this week to visit Healthy Harold. Healthy Harold visits schools to provide the knowledge and skills to help children make informed choices and to lead a healthy and safe lifestyle. We had lots of fun!

Mrs Nicole Moore – Assistant Principal

From the Library

Premiers Reading Challenge
Congratulations to the students who have already logged on to the PRC site for 2015, and special congratulations to the three students who have completed it!
Remember that the site may be accessed through our School Website or by doing a Google search – just type in PRC. Your child must know their school login and user name in order to enter the site. These are obtained from the class teacher.

Kindergarten Library Bags
Parents, it would be a great help if you could shorten the string handles of your child’s bag. Some little ones are having difficulty carrying their bags back to the classroom.

‘Old Book’ Sale
We’re having a sale of very old Library books at lunchtime in Week 10. All books – Fiction & Non Fiction – will be available for 20c each. The sale will be conducted from Monday, 30th March until Thursday, 2nd April.

Donation Request
Many students come to the Library on a daily basis. Sometimes they come because they feel a bit tired, or a bit sad, or a bit lonely. Many of these children love something to cuddle & read to. Therefore, if you have at home an old teddy in good condition that your children have outgrown or lost interest in, we would love to give it a home in our Library. I can assure you that it will be well-treated & appreciated!

Ms Leslie Hyde – Teacher Librarian

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Band
Our Training Band students have had a fantastic first term and are progressing very well. To showcase how much hard work they have done we would like to invite you to an "Open Rehearsal - A work in progress!". This will be during our normal rehearsal time at 2.30pm on Tuesday 31st March in the hall. Both the Red and Blue bands will be performing. We look forward to you joining us for our very first performance.
We are currently asking new Band members to choose their size for the Band shirts. We have some samples for them to hold up. Our school uniform shop will be producing the shirts this year. I will let you know when they will be available to purchase from the Uniform Shop. The uniform shop also sell the black long pants which are part of the band uniform.

Ms Danielle Scott – Deputy Principal
**Chinese Community Language**

This term Chinese background students have been learning strokes, Pinyin, character, and Chinese idioms. In Kindergarten students have started learning basic strokes; they have also enjoyed singing “一闪一闪亮晶晶” and “我的朋友在哪里”. Year 1 students have learnt all initial sounds and vowel sounds of Pinyin; they have also learnt “声调歌” to help them to remember the 4 tones in Pinyin.

Year 2 students are learning about the four seasons and they have enjoyed singing “春天在哪里”. Year 3 students are learning about Chinese food and have enjoyed fun collaborative writing activities.

Year 4 students are learning the text “小女孩和小猴子”. Students have learnt to use the 6 comprehension skills to gain deep understanding of the text.

Year 1 to Year 4 students have Chinese homework every week. Students are encouraged to complete their Chinese homework each week to reinforce their learning from the classroom.

*Mrs Elizabeth Wang & Miss Amy Zhai – Chinese Language Teachers*

**Student Representative Council**

Next week on Wednesday 25th March the SRC will be conducting our first fund raiser for 2015. It will be a mufti day with a gold coin donation.

Instead of an ordinary mufti day we have decided to run our fundraiser in conjunction with our school celebration of Harmony Day. The SRC are asking all students to come dressed in the national costume from their family’s country of origin. Alternatively come dressed in orange clothes to symbolise cultural diversity.

Harmony Day is a wonderful initiative which allows Australians to recognise the rich diversity of our nation. We all have different countries of heritage but we are all Australian. It is lovely to be able to celebrate this rich tapestry of Australian culture with each other and our students.

We look forward to celebrating Harmony Day together. We are also looking forward to seeing many students in national dress as well as the sea of orange clothes which symbolise our unique Australian culture.

*Mrs Kate Carey, Ms Erin Piper, Ms Vanessa Hoskin, Mrs Anna Kakakios SRC students*

**Swimming News**

Our school swimming carnival was held in week 2 at Carss Park pool. Due to the small venue, we could only take the competent swimmers from years 3 to 6. Those who attended were well behaved and showed great enthusiasm in competing. The carnival was won by the Waratah House.
Thirty Two students then progressed to the Botany Bay Zone swimming carnival, held on Friday, 27th February. These students were great ambassadors for our school and we saw some great performances by them. The junior boys relay team placed third; the junior girls placed second. Great individual performers were:

- Stephen 3rd in breaststroke, 3rd in backstroke, 12 yr boys
- Lyn, 2nd in breaststroke 11 yr girls
- Melanie, 2nd backstroke, 12 yr girls
- Jasun, 1st breaststroke, 2nd backstroke, junior boys
- Michelle, 3rd breaststroke, 1st backstroke, butterfly and medley, junior girls

The last four competitors, along with the junior girls relay team, will progress through to the Sydney East Regional carnival on 18th March. We wish them well for that day.

A special mention must go to Michelle who was awarded the Junior Girl Champion medal at the Zone carnival. Congratulations on this wonderful achievement.

Hurstville placed second in the overall point score, just behind Brighton-Le-Sands PS. Well done to all our Hurstville swimmers on an outstanding performance.

A big thank you must go to parents Mrs Kuang and Mrs Tan for their assistance with timekeeping on the day. The Botany Bay conveners, as well as the swimmers, really appreciated your time and effort on the day.

_Miss Bronwyn Moar- Sports Organiser_
Everyone Belongs

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 25**

**MUFTI DAY** – WEAR YOUR NATIONAL DRESS OR THE COLOUR ORANGE.

**SRC FUNDRAISER.**
Please bring $1 or $2 donation
Funds raised will contribute towards improving the school hall.
Healthy Harold Report

All students at our school have had the opportunity to visit the Life Education Van and meet Healthy Harold. Students have had a wonderful time with learning about keeping healthy and safe. Here are some photos of the students saying goodbye to Healthy Harold.

Why is breakfast important?

- children who miss breakfast are often reported as having poor behaviour and poor concentration
- children who miss breakfast are often unable to meet their daily nutrient requirements
- children who miss breakfast are more likely to have a greater risk of being overweight or obese
- eating breakfast helps children learn and establish healthy eating habits early in life.
2015 HPS Easter Raffle

Buy Easter raffle tickets and get a chance to win great prizes!

Grand Prize
Tablet

2nd Prize
Camera

3rd Prize
Headphone

and a lot of extra prizes to be won!

Dear Parents and Children,

To make it fun this Easter, the school and the P&C have jointly organised a series of fun activities. Riding on last year’s good response, this year, we will be holding an Easter raffle for school fundraising again. All funds will be going to support our children. Please be aware that the purchased raffle ticket will go into the draw for the student to receive a prize. Raffle tickets should only be sold to family and friends.

Each child is taking home a booklet of 10 raffle tickets. The tickets are $2.00 each. It will be drawn on the 1st of April during the school assembly. The more tickets sold, the more funds can be raised for the benefit of our children. What’s more, for every 10 tickets sold, your children will instantly enter the “How many Easter egg?” guessing game for a chance to win a Smiggle Gift Pack. Please record your guess on the last ticket sold. The guessing jar will be displayed at Monday morning assembly and at lunchtimes. There are many prizes to be won, so hop in and make sure your child doesn’t miss out!

NOTE: Sold or unsold raffle tickets must be returned with the correct amount in an envelope (marked with your child’s name and class) to your child’s class teacher by 27th of March, 2015. Extra booklets are available from the front office.

Yours Sincerely

P&C Fundraising

Anne Hewson
Principal

20th March 2015